

THE Golden Opportunity

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Spotlight

"Healthcare was where I belong. It truly was my passion."



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Making a Difference

Scholarships support young healthcare leaders

Improving healthcare to traditionally underserved populations requires focused commitment and the creative application of resources. Through an innovative scholarship program, the Foundation honors youth leaders who are making a difference in their communities and who aspire to obtain a health professions degree.

Launched in 2002, the Foundation administers the Youth for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Leadership Recognition Program (YAPP-LRP) to reward young leaders for their contributions to healthy adolescent lifestyle choices and teen pregnancy prevention. Funded by The California Wellness Foundation, this program annually awards \$25,000 scholarships to youth (ages 16 to 24) for their health professions education. These funds are disbursed over five years. YAPP-LRP recipients must agree to practice full-time direct patient care in a medically underserved area in California upon their graduation.

In addition to financial support, the program creates unique opportunities for recipients to enhance their skills through alumni networking at the annual awards ceremony and leader-

ship development activities held in conjunction with this event. These enhancements provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and an arena for the further development of skills to prepare them for future leadership roles in healthcare. 2002 YAPP-LRP recipient Lorenzo Valdez praised the leadership development seminar held in September 2004, and said, "I gained

so much knowledge and information.... I have so much to learn. I hope that one day I could also help others and be (in a) position to inspire the next generation."

"I hope that one day I could also help others and.... inspire the next generation."

Lorenzo Valdez
YAPP Scholar

Our current recipients come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, and collectively represent the

best that their generation has to offer. We are proud to recognize their active involvement as peer educators, family planning counselors, and teen outreach workers. This program affirms our belief that scholarships are an investment in future health leadership.

The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the November 4, 2005 postmark deadline. For application information, please visit the Foundation's website at: www.healthprofessions.ca.gov or call (800) 773-1669.

Education, a Lifelong Process

The Foundation is proud to recognize the achievements of our program recipients and alumni. These outstanding individuals inspire us with their strong desire to care for the well-being of those in greatest need.

There is no better example than David Sanchez, 2004 Health Professions Education Scholarship Program recipient. He resides in Fresno and is a full-time student in the Primary Care Physician Assistant program at San Joaquin Valley College. A member of the College's Charter Class of 2005, Sanchez is President of their Physician Assistant Student Society.

Sanchez's journey towards this educational milestone began many years ago. As a young fourth grader, he had a positive experience with an optometrist that made a lasting impression. Together with health issues in his family, Sanchez saw that one's health had a profound impact on daily life.

Sanchez pursued his studies in Health Science at CSU Fresno while working in the field of ophthalmology, and was guided and mentored by Dr. Alan Nerenberg, M.D. Nerenberg recognized Sanchez's talents and first suggested that he consider a career as a Physician Assistant. To this day, Dr. Nerenberg remains his trusted friend and advisor.

Upon graduation, Sanchez accepted a lucrative job outside the health field. Although highly successful, four unhappy months on the job convinced him of his true calling. "Healthcare was where I belong. It truly was my passion." Ultimately, Sanchez chose the path as a Physician Assistant, affording him a balanced lifestyle that holds both the challenges and rewards of a health career.

Trained in the medical model, the two-year curriculum is often compared to the first and third years of medical school. Despite the rigors of

the program, Sanchez's second-year experience in clinical rotations only reinforced his passion to serve. Sanchez explains that patients in primary care clinics in underserved areas are extremely grateful for the care they receive. "When patients come in, their

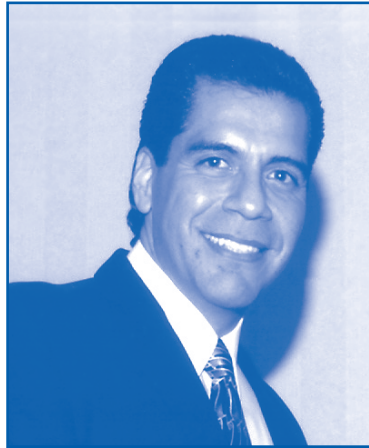
appreciation is very obvious. In fact, it is an honor to serve them and I thank them for allowing me to participate in their care."

The Primary Care Physician Assistant program was established at San Joaquin Valley College in 2003, and as a member of the Charter Class, Sanchez credits this landmark achievement to the tremendous commitment and dedication of Program Director Les Howard. The program's success is confirmed by the fact that their second-year class ranked seventh

nationally out of 65 participating programs on the 2005 version 9 Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Tool.

Director Howard stressed the importance and responsibility of students participating in their future. Although he had no previous experience or desire, Sanchez was convinced of the importance of active leadership and rose to this challenge. As President of SJVC's Physician Assistant Student Society, Sanchez serves as the "voice" of the Class of 2005 in all aspects of the program affecting students. The Student Society launched a childhood obesity awareness project at health fairs for Hispanic children. Their organization was selected by the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants as the 2005 Outstanding Student Society, sharing that honor with the University of Oklahoma.

As his academic term at San Joaquin Valley College draws to a close, Sanchez shares some parting thoughts. "Education is a lifelong process and does not stop after you graduate from a program. Education is self-directed. The more you learn, the more you realize there is so much more out there to learn."



Leveraging Partnerships to Serve the Community

In her capacity as Workforce Planning Leader in Kaiser Permanente's Strategic Workforce Management department, Elizabeth Brashers develops and manages strategic partnerships. *The Golden Opportunity* spoke with her recently about the long-time collaboration of the Health Professions Education Foundation and Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser Permanente is a non-profit healthcare system that values reinvestment in the community it serves. It is Kaiser Permanente's social mission to serve not only their membership but also the broader communities in which they operate, including the underserved. They are committed to investing in the community through supporting vulnerable populations, strengthening the healthcare safety net, offering evidence-based medicine, and supporting education of the healthcare workforce.

As an integrated healthcare delivery system of health plan, hospitals and clinics, Kaiser Permanente seeks to keep people healthy in the outpatient setting. As a result, they employ thousands of health care workers from almost every profession, from physicians and nursing to imaging, laboratory, pharmacy and physical therapy. Many Californians are aware of the nursing shortage, but fewer are aware of similar shortages in many of the allied health specialties that are critical to keeping hospitals and clinics functioning smoothly.

Kaiser Permanente has a long history of investing in educational opportunities for its employees, as well as for students in the community who are interested in pursuing health care careers. In 1994, Judi Hansen, then Director of Recruitment and a colleague of Brashers, learned about

the Foundation's infrastructure to support a scholarship program. With the similarity of the two organizations' philosophies, Kaiser Permanente saw in the Foundation a huge opportunity to visibly demonstrate their commitment to growing the healthcare workforce, to diversity, to partnering with the community, and to encourage students to 'give back' to their communities. Thus Kaiser Permanente partnered with the Foundation to establish the Allied Healthcare Scholarship, to encourage students to pursue high demand allied health careers, and to compliment the Foundation's scholarships in support of nursing careers.

This scholarship program is supported through their Community Benefit Program. Annually, the leadership of California's Northern and Southern regions assess the community healthcare needs statewide and in their local communities, and the partnerships that can leverage the maximum benefit to those served. Their priority areas have remained stable through the years and enabled Kaiser Permanente to award nearly \$600,000 to the Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program since 1994. Through this program, Kaiser Permanente has raised awareness of allied healthcare careers, supported the financial needs of students, and encouraged them to give back to the community.

Says Brashers, "At Kaiser Permanente, we have a shared mission to educate and support healthcare professionals. By taking care of program administration, the Foundation has made it easy for us to invest in our community and leverage our support for the healthcare workforce. Kaiser Permanente has gained statewide visibility and the greater knowledge that together we can make a difference."

Calendar

Friday, August 5, 2005

1st Annual Health Professions Education Foundation Awards Ceremony, Sacramento, CA

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Fall 2005 application postmark deadline for:

Pre-Nursing Scholarship Program • Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship Program
Bachelor of Science Nursing Scholarship Program • Bachelor of Science Nursing Loan Repayment Program
Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program

Friday, November 4, 2005

Application postmark deadline for:

Youth for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention-Leadership Recognition Scholarship Program

Director's Message



As I sit and reflect on my experience with the Health Professions Education Foundation, there is much I am proud of.

Program Growth—The Foundation has provided scholarship and loan repayment funding to a record number of health professional students and graduates for their commitment to practice in medically underserved areas of California.

Program Expansion—While maintaining our focus on California's nursing workforce shortage, the Foundation recognized the growing shortage of allied and mid-level health practitioners and has implemented additional programs which target these individuals.

Partnerships & Collaboration—We have developed strong relationships with individuals, corporations, associations and other foundations who share our vision that access to healthcare in underserved areas can be improved by supporting and developing individuals dedicated to practicing in those areas.

Preparing Future Health Leadership—The Foundation has gone beyond granting the traditional scholarship and loan

repayment with no strings attached by enhancing awardees' leadership skills through volunteer assignments and leadership development seminars. We have created opportunities for awardees to gain practical experience that they can utilize throughout their health professional career.

Reflecting on my experience has allowed me to examine what the Foundation can do to improve service to the health professions students and professionals we strive to serve, as well as foundations and corporations who rely on our program administration expertise. I acknowledge and ask for your assistance in helping us spread the word about who we are, what we do, why we do it, and why you may wish to support us in "***Giving Golden Opportunities***." Your voice as a friend, an ambassador and a recipient of the Foundation services is the best testimony we can offer to our potential customers.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AS', representing Angela L. Smith.

Angela L. Smith, MPA
Executive Director



**Health Professions
Education Foundation**
Giving Golden Opportunities

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